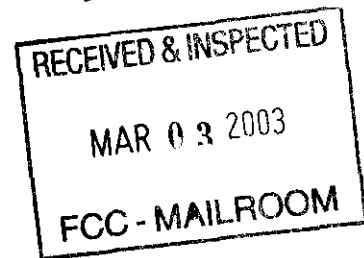




# Women's Business Institute

*Changing the Face of the Economy*

February 24, 2003



## CORPORATE OFFICE

222 East Baltimore Street  
Taneytown, MD 21787  
Phone (410) 756-2334  
Fax (410) 756-2936  
E-mail: [wbireception@xecu.net](mailto:wbireception@xecu.net)  
Website: <http://www.wbi-md.org>

## CUMBERLAND OFFICE

Business Resource Center  
113 Baltimore Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
Phone: (301) 722-9300  
Fax: (301) 722-9300  
E-mail: [cumberlandwbi@juno.com](mailto:cumberlandwbi@juno.com)

## LA PLATA OFFICE

Economic & Community  
Development Institute  
College of Southern Maryland  
8730 Mitchell Rd., PO Box 910  
La Plata, MD 20646  
Phone: (301) 934-7581  
Fax: (301) 934-7681  
E-mail: [maryk@csmd.edu](mailto:maryk@csmd.edu)

## SALISBURY OFFICE

Center for Professional Development  
Salisbury University  
Power Professional Building, #170  
Salisbury, MD 21801-6860  
Phone (410) 548-3991  
Fax: (410) 548-5389  
E-mail: [mmbeckey@salisbury.edu](mailto:mmbeckey@salisbury.edu)

## FAIRMONT, WV OFFICE

Alan B. Mollohan Innovation Ctr.  
1000 Technology Drive, #1210  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
Phone: (304) 366-1400  
Fax: (304) 367-0867  
E-Mail: [wbifairmont@juno.com](mailto:wbifairmont@juno.com)

## KEYSER, WV OFFICE

Grand Central Business Center  
One Grand Central Park, #3050  
Keyser, WV 26726  
Phone: (301) 788-4646  
Fax: (304) 788-1687  
E-mail: [keyservbi@juno.com](mailto:keyservbi@juno.com)

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I wish to take this opportunity to offer my support and the support of our organization regarding the application by Verizon Maryland, Verizon Washington, DC, and Verizon West Virginia for authorization to provide in-region, InterLATA Services in the states of Maryland and West Virginia and the District of Columbia, WC Docket No. 02-384. We have been and will continue to be an interested party and have supported Verizon at the Maryland Public Service Commission in the past. We think approval of this request would be in the best interests of small businesses, educational institutions, and private individuals by providing healthy competition to both lower rates and improve services.

Our organization is a non-profit Women's Business Center whose mission is to provide quality training, counseling, and technical assistance to any woman who owns or desires to own a business, including socially and economically disadvantaged women and women on welfare. We have six office locations providing such services throughout rural Maryland and West Virginia; therefore, competitive long distance rates and services are important to us and the clients we serve.

Our experience with Verizon shows that they are a responsible corporate citizen, and we recommend that you give a favorable review to their application before the Federal Communications Commission.

Sincerely,

Beatrice A. Checket, President and CEO

No. of Copies rec'd 04/  
101-18008



The Women's Business Institute is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration pursuant to Cooperative Agreements SBAHQ-99-W-0032 and SBAHQ-02-W-0015. The SBA's Women's Business Ownership Homepage address is <http://www.sba.gov/womeninbusiness>. The Online Women's Business Center address is: <http://www.onlinewbc.gov>. The SBA's cooperation does not constitute or imply its endorsement of any opinions, products and/or services. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact Denise Grooms, Women's Business Institute, 222 E. Baltimore Street, Taneytown, MD 21787 at (410) 756-2334. All SBA programs are